

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15-18 and 20 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 15 and 18 being independent. By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended, and claim 15 is canceled.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1, 5, 6, 16 and 18 are allowed and that claims 10, 17 and 22 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Actions rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,701,032 to Senn; and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP-02282177 to Mizuno in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,975,249 to Tomaseti. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 10, and thus is in condition for allowance. Claim 15 is canceled.

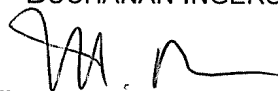
Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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